

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing below of the claims presents in amended form claims 1 through 14 that were approved and accepted in the international phase of the corresponding PCT application. The following claims replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of cooling strip or wire products in which, subsequent to being annealed, ~~the product (3) is cooled to a temperature of about 20 — 50°C beneath its oxidation temperature, where by~~ said method comprising the steps of: winding the product (3) around a drum (1) immediately downstream of an annealing path so that the product (3) ~~will lie~~ lies in mutual juxtaposed turns ~~whereafter the product after a number of turns is unwound from the drum (1), characterised in that the product is wound onto the drum (1) through a number of turns such that said product (3) will be cooled~~ on the drum; cooling the product to a desired temperature , and of from about 20°C to about 50°C below the oxidation temperature of the material; wherein the drum (1) ~~is given~~ has a diameter that exceeds ~~the~~ a diameter at which the product (3) ~~will be~~ is influenced mechanically by plastic deformation.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ including the steps of: placing the drum (1) in a closed housing (2) that includes a product inlet opening (4) and a product outlet opening (5) , and

~~by causing~~ providing a shielding gas atmosphere ~~to be maintained in~~ within the housing (2).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 2, characterised ~~by using~~ wherein the shielding gas is selected from the group consisting of argon, hydrogen gas ~~or , and~~ nitrogen gas or corresponding shielding gases as the shielding gas atmosphere and combinations and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-3,~~ characterised ~~by~~ claim 1, including the step of cooling the drum (1) ~~with the aid of a~~ by forced convection ~~effect with its~~ of the atmosphere surrounding atmosphere the drum.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-4,~~ characterised ~~by~~ claim 1, including the step of cooling the drum (1) ~~with the aid of~~ by introducing an external coolant ~~which is caused to cool the inside (7) of~~ into the drum (1).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-5,~~ characterised ~~by~~ claim 1, including the step of constructing the drum (1) from a material ~~that has good thermal conductivity, such as~~ metallic material.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims, characterised by driving~~ claim 1, including the step of rotating the drum (1) ~~with the aid of a drive motor.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended): An arrangement for cooling strip or wire material products where the product is cooled ~~to a temperature of about 20-50°C beneath the oxidation temperature of said product~~ after having been annealed, ~~characterised in that the product (3) is wound onto~~ said arrangement comprising: a drum (1) positioned immediately downstream of an annealing path for receiving on a drum peripheral surface turns of the product such that the turns of the product (3) will be mutually juxtaposed, ~~wherein the product is unwound from the drum (1) after having been wound onto the drum through a number of turns, wherein the number of turns on the drum (1) is such as to cool~~ for cooling the product (3) to a desired temperature, ~~and~~ of from about 20°C to about 50°C below the oxidation temperature of the material; wherein the drum (1) has a diameter which exceeds ~~the~~ a diameter at which the product (3) is influenced mechanically by plastic deformation.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An arrangement according to Claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drum (1) is located in a closed housing (2) that has an inlet opening (4) and an outlet opening (5) for the product (3); ~~and in that~~ wherein the housing (2) contains and maintains a shielding gas atmosphere.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An arrangement according to Claim 9, characterised in that wherein the shielding gas atmosphere ~~consists~~ is selected from the group consisting of argon, hydrogen gas or , and nitrogen gas or a corresponding shielding gas , and combinations and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An arrangement according to ~~any one of Claims 8 to 10 inclusive,~~ characterised in that claim 8, wherein the drum (1) is cooled ~~with the aid of a~~ by forced convection ~~effect from its~~ of the atmosphere surrounding atmosphere the drum.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An arrangement according to ~~any one of Claims 8 to 11 inclusive,~~ characterised in that claim 8, wherein the drum (1) is cooled ~~with the aid of~~ by an external coolant ~~which functions~~ that is introduced to cool the inside (7) of the drum (1).

Claim 13 (currently amended): An arrangement according to Claim 12, characterised in that wherein the drum (1) is made of a ~~material that has good thermal conductivity, such as~~ metallic material.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An arrangement according to ~~any one of Claims 8 to 13 inclusive,~~ characterised in that claim 8, wherein the drum (1) is motor-driven.